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Application No.: 10/571,889

2003P13518WOUS  
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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. – 3. (cancelled)

4. (new) A device for sorting flat mailings, comprising:

a pouch loop system defining a transport path including a lower level and an upper level connected via level transitions, wherein the upper level of the transport path extends at least partially above and parallel to the lower level; wherein the transport path includes several partial loops comprising the level transitions and arranged within an inner area of the pouch loop system, wherein the level transitions are positioned adjacent to one another within the inner area of the pouch loop system;

pouch loading stations coupled to the pouch loop system, wherein each partial loop includes at the lower level one of the pouch loading stations, and wherein the pouch loading stations are arranged adjacent to one another on the lower level; and

pouches configured to travel along the pouch loop system, wherein each pouch is configured to receive one flat mailing, and wherein the pouches are configured for a controlled emptying corresponding to a read target address and a sorting plan.

5. (new) The device of Claim 4, further comprising:

a buffer device arranged between the first level and the second level, wherein the buffer device comprises buffer pouches configured to circulate within the buffer device; and

one or more feeder stations having separating devices and subsequent reading devices coupled to the buffer device to feed mailings to the one or more feeder stations, wherein the buffer pouches are configured to be emptied in a controlled manner to transfer the mailings to the pouch loading stations.

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6. (new) The device of Claim 4, further comprising unloading stations configured to remove mailings and, with respect to a direction of transport, arranged in transport stations before the pouch loading stations in a planar extension of the pouch loading stations.